TONG LI COMICS

IGNITE WEDGE

燃撃楔形

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IGNITE WEDGE

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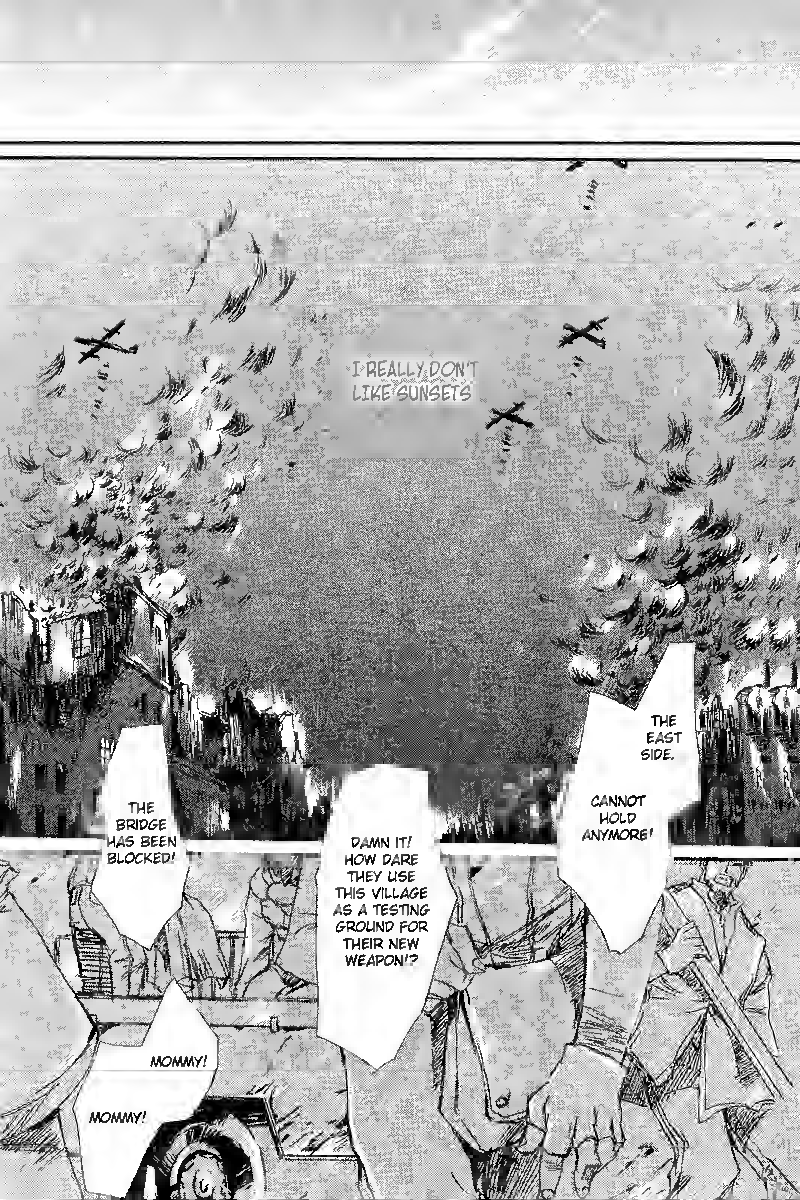
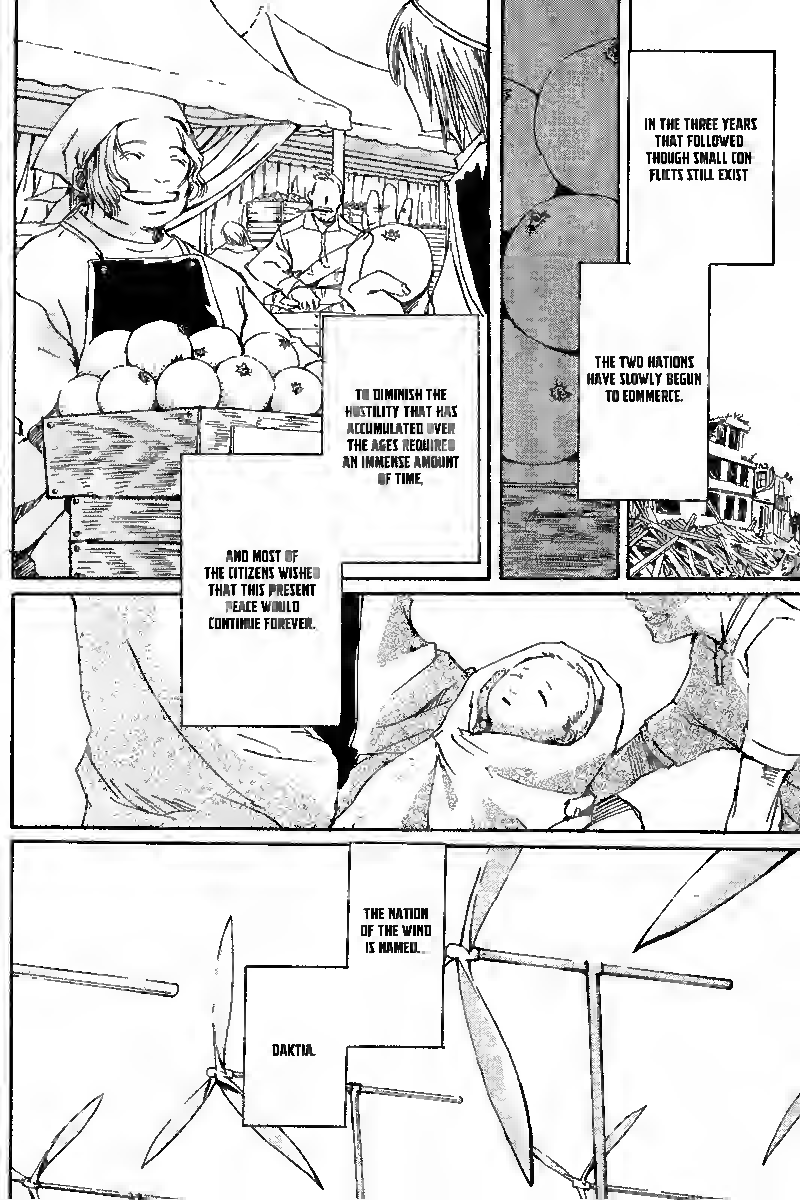

I REALLY DON'T LIKE SUNSETS
THE EAST SIDE.
CANNOT HOLD ANYMORE!
THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN BLOCKED!
DAMN IT! HOW DARE THEY USE THIS VILLAGE AS A TESTING GROUND FOR THEIR NEW WEAPON!?
MOMMY!
MOMMY!

THEIR COLORS RESEMBLE THESE FLAMES
AHHH
AHHH!
WAH!
AHHH!
IT REMINDS ME OF THAT TIME.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I AM TOO LAZY TO MAKE THIS PAGE (AND THE NEXT) LOOK BETTER. (PAPER QUALITY ISN'T THAT GOOD IN THE FIRST PLACE.)

CHAPTER ONE

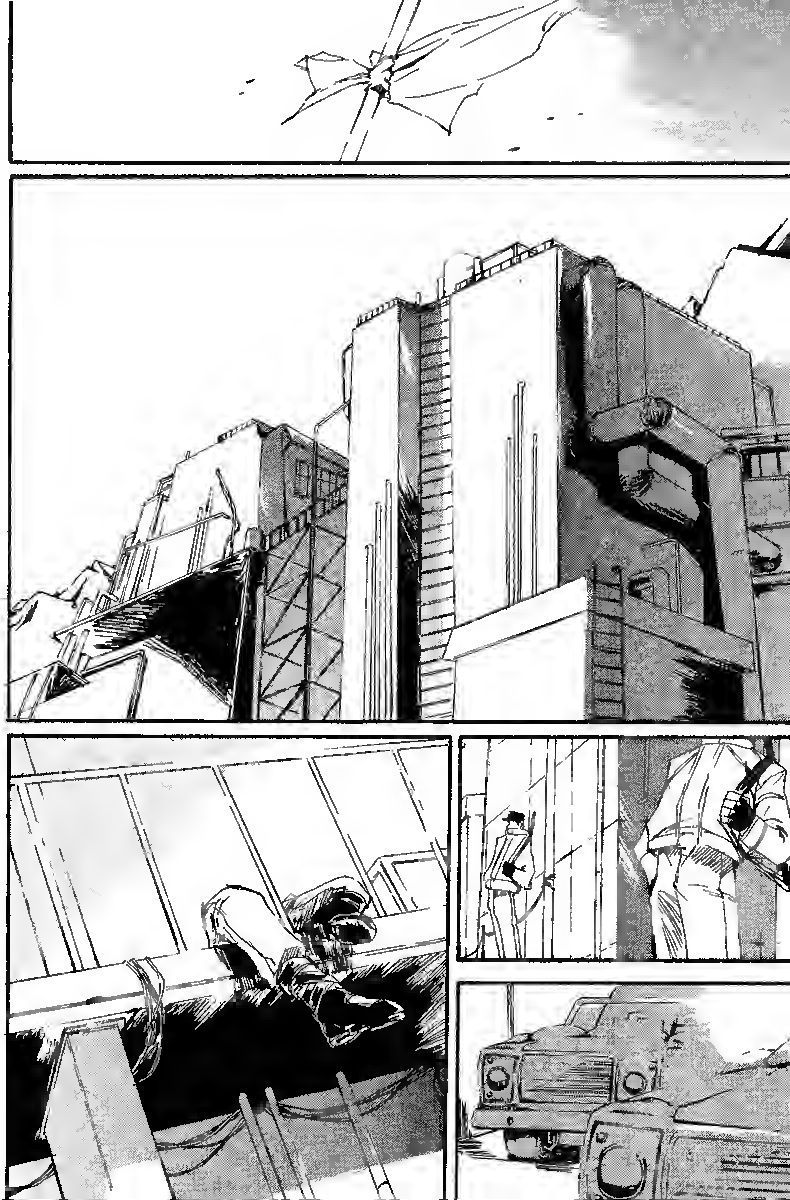
THIS WAR...
EXACTLY WHEN OR WHY IT STARTED NO ONE CAN REMEMBER ANYMORE.
IN A CORNER OF THE ANCIENT CONTINENT, A SMALL NATION IN WHICH MORE THAN HALF ITS REGION IS TAKEN UP BY MOUNTAIN RANGES,
AND A DRY NATION BLOWN BY STRONG WINDS
CONFLICTS CONTINUOUSLY ERUPTED IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES THAT SHARE THE SAME BORDER.
THIS WAR, FOUGHT AT THE COST OF COUNTLESS LIVES FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, HAS FALLEN INTO A STALEMATE.
WR YEAR 111
UNDER A STATE OF EXHAUSTION, THE TWO NATIONS SIGNED A NEGOTIATION FOR TRUCE.


TO DIMINISH THE HOSTILITY THAT HAS ACCUMULATED OVER THE AGES REQUIRED AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF TIME.
IN THE THREE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED THOUGH SMALL CONFLICTS STILL EXIST
THE TWO NATIONS HAVE SLOWLY BEGUN TO COMMERCE.
AND MOST OF THE CITIZENS WISHED THAT THIS PRESENT PEACE WOULD CONTINUE FOREVER.
THE NATION OF THE WIND IS NAMED...
DAKTIA.

THE NATION OF THE MOUNTAIN IS NAMED...
KM
YOU WANT TO HEAD TOWARDS THE WINSTON MINES?
LET'S SEE...
GOING ON THE TRAIN FROM HERE, IT SHOULD TAKE AROUND AN HOUR.

HEY!
ARE YOU A SOLDIER?
UH— NAH
IT'S NOTHING,
IT'S JUST THAT I HEARD ADA'S OFFICIAL MILITARY BASE IS IN THAT MOUNTAIN
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ... SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHAT IS GOING ON, THOUGH?
THE MINES ARE ABANDONED, WHY WOULD THE MILITARY SET UP A BASE THERE?
IT SEEMS...
THERE'S SOME KIND OF TREASURE BURIED THERE ... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

RUSTLE
...
THEN I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED, RIGHT?
YALAIYA...



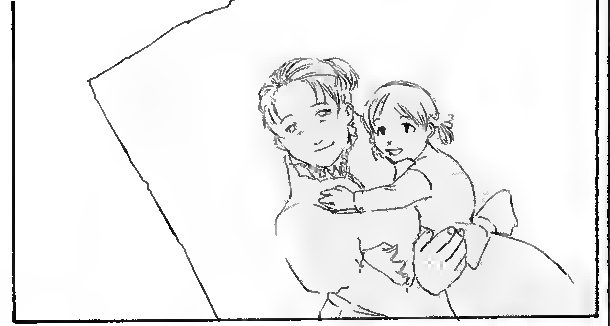
KUSABI!
KUSABI!
PRIVATE KUSABI KAIL!
WHERE ARE YOU?
YE..IH...

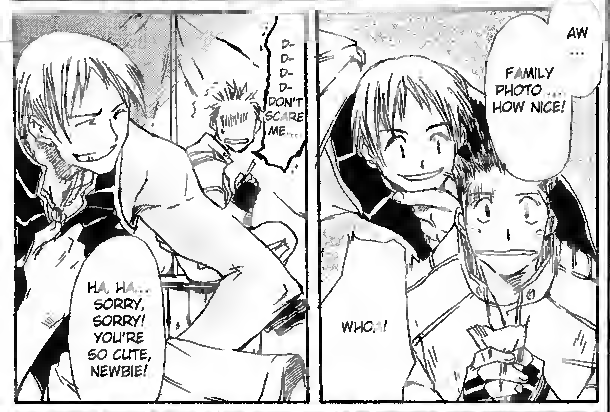
...I'M HERE.
QUIT YAPPING AND COME DOWN HERE!
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF NEW SOLDIERS, RIGHT?!
AH... AH. AH. AH!
AH!
WHAT IS IT, SERGEANT?
IT'S STILL NOT TIME TO CHANGE SHIFTS, RIGHT?
WE'RE ADDING NEW RECRUITS TODAY?
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR RANK DO FOR A LIVING?!
SORRY!
EEK!
I'M THE NEWLY ASSIGNED SOLDIER, JOHN SMITH!
AH... SORRY YOU'RE A NEWBIE?
AM I RIGHT?
AH... YES.
E-EXCUSE ME...

I'M KUSABI KAIL.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
IF YOU TURN THAT WAY AND HEAD UP TOWARDS THE LEFT YOU'LL FIND THE OFFICE FOR NIGHT WATCHES.
THAT PLACE IS THE STORAGE.
THE CANTEEN IS IN THE TENT RIGHT THERE.
THE GUY OVER THERE IS IN THE SAME UNIT, BJ SHAJI LEECH.
CAREFUL NOT TO GET HIM TRICK YOU.
THE ONE NEXT TO HIM IS BIRDY (BIRD).
YEAH, THE ONE WHO LOOKS LIKE A BIG BEAR.
HEY!

HEH, HEH!
MOLD THE METAL WHILE IT'S STILL HOT!
I HEARD THAT, KUSABI!
FEEDING NONSENSE TO THE NEWBIE!
ANYWAY, THAT'S ABOUT IT.
THE OTHERS ARE STILL OUT ON A MISSION.
GOT ANY QUES-TIONS?
AH...
UM...
FEELING INSECURE WITHOUT A GUN...
...RIGHT?
DOES EVERY-ONE,
GET ONLY A POLICE BATON FOR WEAPONRY?
AS YOU CAN SEE, WINSTON IS A DESOLATE REGION,
FAR AWAY FROM THE FRONT LINES.
WE DO HAVE COMMUNAL GUNS FOR PATROLLING GUARDS...
BUT SUBORDINATE OFFICERS CANNOT POSSIBLY EACH BE EQUIPPED WITH ONE.

EAST MICIAN ALONG THE BORDERS
WHERE WERE YOU... BORN?
IS THAT SO...
ADA IS A SMALL COUNTRY, AFTER ALL
BESIDES, WE HAVE NO MONEY...
THERE ARE AREAS THAT STILL HAVE PROBLEMS WITH DAKTIA
THOUGH WE SIGNED A TRUCE...
WE CAN ONLY USE OUR IMAGI-NATION
IF WE CONTINUE TO STAY IN THIS FAR-OFF PLACE,
JUST WHAT IS HAPPEN-ING ON THE FRONT LINES..



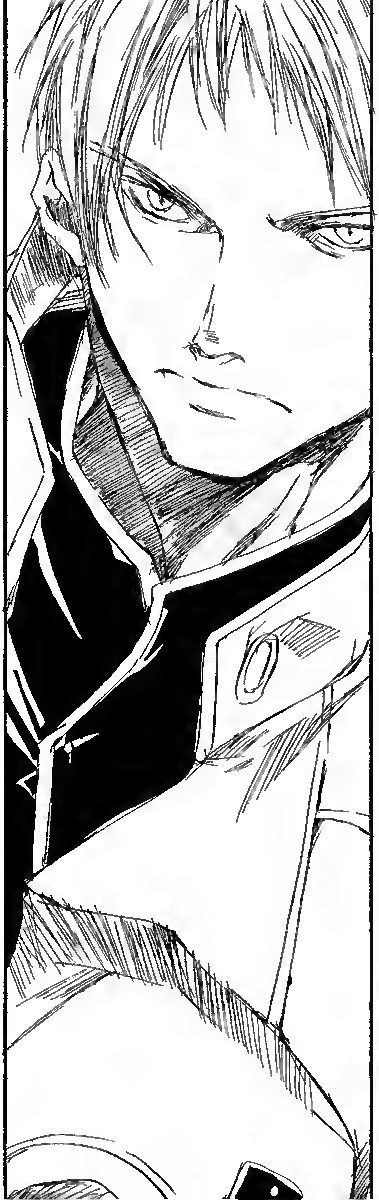

P-P-P-P-
DON'T SCARE ME...
HA, HA... SORRY, SORRY! YOU'RE SO CUTE, NEWBIE!
AW ...
FAMILY PHOTO ... HOW NICE!
WHO...!

NO.
SENPAI, YOU BRING YOUR FAMILY PHOTOS TOO, RIGHT?
W-WHAT OF IT?

HAPPENS OFTEN, RIGHT?
HUH?
OH...
I'M A WAR ORPHAN.
UM...
LET'S GO! SHIFT CHANGE.
AH!
W...IT!
OH! THE NEWBIE'S FIRST JOB, EH?
DO YOUR BEST!
DON'T GET SCARED AND START CRYING!
WHOA!
UH...
AH...
YES, SIR!

UM...
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHAT?
ABOUT THAT...
FAMILY ...
FOR-GET IT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

THIS KIND OF THING HAPPENS OFTEN, DOESN'T IT?
ITS NATURAL NOT TO HAVE THEM
TO ME, ANYWAY,
INDEED...
ITS NOT RARE AT ALL.
IN TIMES LIKE THESE



THERE IS NO NEED.
REPORT YOUR NAME AND UNIT NUMBER!
HM?
SLOWLY SHOW US YOUR HANDS!

IF I'M NOT A COMRADE THEN I'M THE ENEMY...
WHAT A SIMPLE JUDGMENT.
NEWBIE,
GO REPORT TO THE SERGEANT.
BUT... EH?
JOHN!
HI!
YES, SIR!
ARE YOU GOING TO FIRE,
KUSABI?

FORGET IT,
I'M ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS
..WHAT?
I'LL USE THIS
TO PROVE THAT!
THAT'S
KUSABI!
YA...YA...
IS CALLING YOU!

MOTHER...
...IS STILL...
ALIVE?
BANG
RAT.T.T.TATATA

I'M NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THAT.
TURN
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
DAMN IT!
BUT...
THAT REALLY IS...

MOTHER'S

SERGEANT!
LEECH
BIRDY
JOHN!
HM...
WERE THEY YOUR FRIENDS?

SORRY
SO
SL
ASH

W-
WHAT?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO
WRONG!
EVERYONE
I THINK I'LL SPARE YOU
BUT IF I DO THAT... AH... I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE
IT'S ONLY THAT
THEY,
AND YOU,
I THINK I WILL JUST...
YOU BITCH!
ARE FAR TOO WEAK
AH... SUCH BAD UPBRINGING.
KILL YOU NOW!

THIS IS...
CLANG

APPEAR
IT'S YOU...!
HMPH
YOU NEED...
POWER, DON'T YOU?

IN THE INNERMOST PART OF THAT TUNNEL
LIES THE POWER YOU NEED
BUT TO GET IT...
YOU HAVE TO PAY WITH EVERYTHING YOU HAVE.

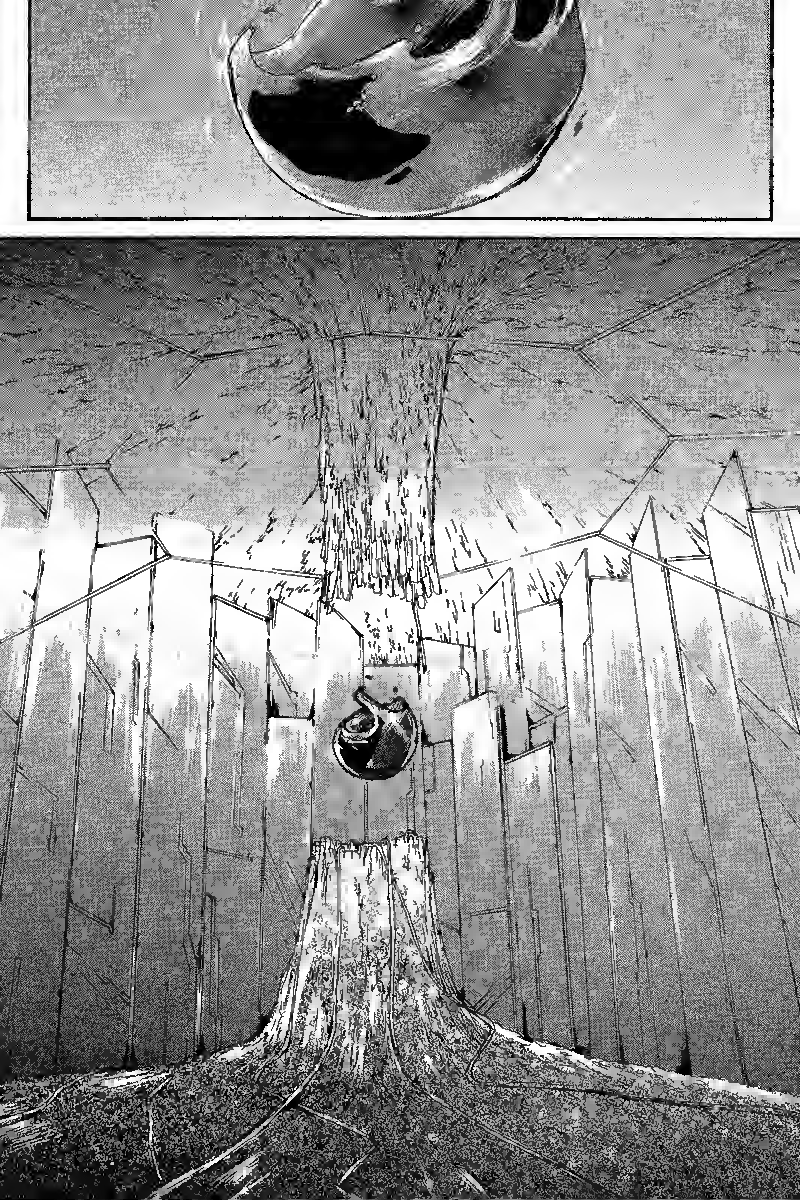
DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

GRITS TEETH

QUIT DREAMING!
OUT OF THE WAY!
LI KAR-WAY!
HMPH...
YOU'RE REALLY HEART-LESS...
HE DOESN'T KNOW A THING, DOES HE?

YOU EVEN WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF COMING HERE YOURSELF.
"THE RUSTED LION", ANCHOR LAGUERS!
ITS THE PATH HE HAS CHOSEN.
HA!
YOU'RE ONE TO SPEAK. YOU JUST WANT MORE FRIENDS, DON'T YOU?
THIS TIME YOU BETRAYED DAKTIA...
A STRAY CAT IS A STRAY CAT TO THE END.
AND...
THEN WHAT?
HMPH
YOU THINK IT'LL ALL BE OKAY AFTER YOU TAKE THAT KID BACK WITH YOU, HUH?
MONSTERS RIPPING EACH OTHER APART?
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE, DIDN'T I...?
FEMALE MANTIS.

WHAT A WASTE OF EFFORT.
HUFF...
HA...
...HA...
...



WHAT IS THIS
..MERCURY?
THIS IS...
THE POWER?

AHHHHH!
WHA...!
AH!
...OFF...
DON'T LET IT DEVOUR YOU.

SEEKING POWER?
YOU'RE SEEKING IT, AREN'T YOU?
QUICKLY,
UNDE-TERRED ...
THIRST!
VIO-LENTLY,
QUIETLY,
IMAGINE THAT POWER,
MAINTAIN YOUR RAGE!

STRIP YOUR-SELF OF ALL,
ABANDON ALL !!
SEEK THE FANGS!

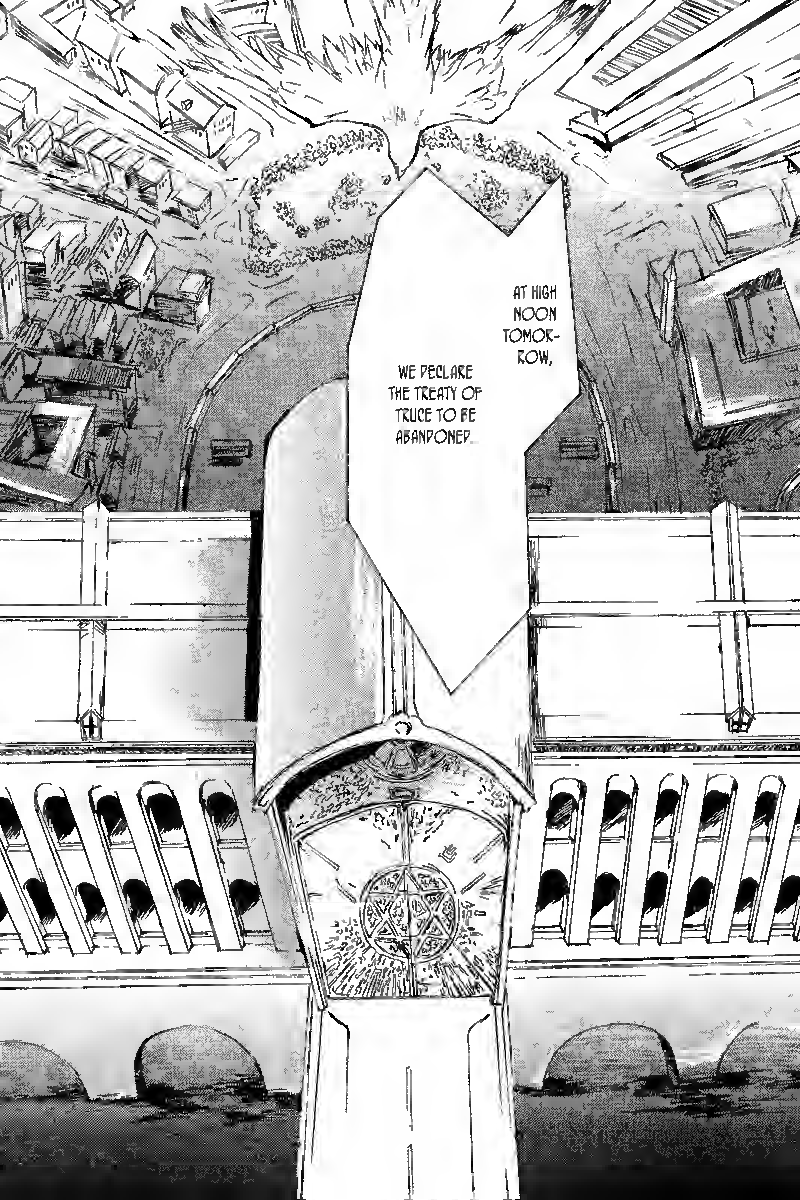
TURN ALL THE ANGER, SADNESS IN YOUR HEART...
INTO BLADES!!

YOU'RE CLEAR TO ENTER THE COUNTRY.
OH ...
THANKS
BY THE WAY,
WHEN WAS THIS PASSPORT ISSUED?
LAST YEAR.
THERE'S STILL ONE MORE VALID YEAR, RIGHT?
YES, THAT'S TRUE
?
ITS JUST ...
I HEARD THERE'S GOING TO BE A BORDER LOCKDOWN AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'LL NEED TO REAPPLY FOR ONE AGAIN
STRIKE
TO YOU "FREE CITIZEN" MERCHANTS,
THIS IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, ISN'T IT?

CAN'T STAND THIS..
IS WAR..
STARTING AGAIN?
WHAM!
WHOA!
IF THE INSPECTION IS DONE, THEN YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND GET THE HELL BACK HERE!
SIRE STALOHIDER!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?! DON'T LAY A FINGER ON OTHER PEOPLE'S MERCHANDISE, DUMBASS BROTHER!
WAIT, WAIT I'M WRONG I'M WRONG DON'T STEP ON MY FACE PLEASE
SHUT IT!
YOU TROUBLE-MAKER!
NOW, THEN...
AH, LUCIFAY!

... THE DEEP WEST.
IT IS NOW CONFIRMED THAT PAKTIA TROOPS HAVE INVADED WINSTON.
THE GOVERNMENT OF APA PERCEIVES THIS AS...
A SEVERE VIOLATION OF THE MICIAN TREATY.
IN RESPONSE TO THIS ATTACK
IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 12:00 TOMORROW
THE TRUCE WILL BE SUSPENDED.

THIS DECLARATION...
WILL NOT CAUSE IMMEDIATE MILITARY REACTION
BUT...
OUR NATION'S COMMITMENT IN CREATING A PEACEFUL BOND...
HAS BEEN TRAMPLED UPON BY PAKTIA'S TRAITOROUS ACTIONS. WE EXPRESS DEEP REGRETS FOR SUCH AN END.


AT HIGH NOON TOMORROW,
WE DECLARE THE TREATY OF TRUCE TO BE ABANDONED.

AS FOLLOWS, AT THE SAME MOMENT TOMORROW
WHAT IS LOCATED ON THE CONNECTED MICIAN WAY SHALL BE SEALED,
THE DOOR OF STAR SKY.

SEALING THE DOOR OF STAR SKY...
HMPH..
EVEN WINSTON...
HAS BEEN INVADED BY DAKTIA!

I KEEP SMELLING THE STENCH OF FIRE.
SO IT SEEMS ...
THE FIRE OF WAR HAS BEEN LIT,
HASN'T IT?

TOO SLOW!
WE CANNOT LEAVE THE SAVAGERY OF DAKTIA UNANSWERED!
IT WILL MAKE THE GOVERNMENT APPEAR COWARDLY!
EVEN IF WINSTON IS OF MINIMAL IMPORTANCE ON THE WAR STRATEGY,
PRESIDENT!
SO IT IS...
THE ADA GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY SENT DOCUMENTS TO DAKTIA.
IN ORDER TO FIND OUT THEIR TRUE MOTIVES

BUT PRESIDENT...
I'VE ALREADY CONSIDERED THE ADVICE OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT,
AND DECLARED THE ABANDONMENT OF THE TRUCE!
BUT THAT'S THE LIMIT!
LISTEN UP!
DO NOT CAVE INTO THE ENEMY'S PROVOKING!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
PRESIDENT FAYDIS!
HMFH
A KNOW-NOTHING WHO WAS ELECTED,
BECAUSE OF BLOOD RELATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS PRESIDENT...
ENOUGH OF THAT IDEALISTIC THINKING...
WOMEN, AFTER ALL...
STOMP

GOOD WORK.
I CAN'T STAND THIS.
THEY'RE ALL STUPID OLD MEN WHO THINK THEY CAN SOLVE ALL FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH FORCE!
BAM
JUST WHO DO THEY THINK ACTUALLY FIGHTS ON THE BATTLE FIELD?!
NOT OLD MEN WHO WAVE AROUND THEIR MEDALS, THAT'S FOR SURE!
CLINK.
PLEASE, DRINK.
AND PLEASE DON'T DESCRIBE THE OLD SOLDIERS IN SUCH A MANNER.
YEAH ...
THANKS, TIADI.
...
JUST WHO IS IT...
THAT GOES ON THE BATTLE FIELD...?

CHAPTER ONE - END